

LAW OF NEW ZEALAND

CHINESE REVERENCE

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CHARACTERISTIC TRAITS

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STRANGE MOVEMENT IN KOREA

**Members of Anti-Japanese Party to
Try to Collect Sum to Pay
Off Japan's Debt.**

Special Cablegram to The Star.

PEKING, May 25.—To what extraordinary lengths superstition may go is illustrated by an official ceremony that took place at Fatsan, near Canton, on the 15th of the first month of the Chinese year, following an annual custom. It is well known that the Chinese are very careful about the paper which contains written or printed characters, and every care is taken that it is not trampled on by the foot of man, but this particular ceremony indicates that the reverence for writing is even

On the day mentioned certain representative officials of the public institutions gathered, and into their custody were handed over all the ashes of the written paper which had been burned during the year. The heads of the local institutions hired a boat and took a trip down the river with the tide some distance beyond Whampoa. There the ashes were thrown into the river and the tide carried them out of the waves. Priests and musicians were present and a general festival was kept up until the ceremony was being performed. Although reverence and respect and compassion for the indigent have always been characteristic traits of the Chinese, a

The original proposal that the port is something of an innovation, and the proposed establishment of a workhouse at Canton is a noteworthy instance of the assimilation of western ideas. The acute need for such an institution has been recognized by a high official in Canton, and if his proposals are adopted indigent, able-bodied men will be housed and taught a trade, while the feeble and infirm will be cared for in the same institution.

Memorialized the Throne.

A proposal quite startling in its progressiveness has just been made by a Chinese official of high standing. He has memorialized the throne, urging that the board of communications be instructed to permit it, and, in fact, to order the provincial authorities to build branch roads connecting all

business centers of any importance. The reason is that the subscriptions for the many funds to be raised in the districts from the local gentry and merchants, and that the officials, too, should subscribe for the shares. The suggestion that the funds have been favorably received and the board has been ordered to consider it and report. The matter is not very likely to be heard of again. It does not mean a commercial revolution in China.

Members of the anti-Japanese party in Korea have set on foot a remarkable movement. The idea is to raise a fund of 100 million yen in the form of private subscriptions to pay off the debt of 35,000,000 yen (\$17,500,000) which the country owes to Japan. Precisely what the gain is to be, and how the fund is to be raised, is not quite clear, for the money was lent for the purpose of financing progressive works, and Japan is

through, whoever pays the bill. She would no doubt be all the better pleased if she were relieved of the necessity of finding the money herself.

Bomb for Prime Minister.

A bomb recently arrived at the house of the Korean prime minister, was neatly packed in a little ivory box. The parcel, inclosed in a paper wrapping with a superscription to the effect that there was a letter inside, was handed to the policeman guarding the house, and evidently the presumption was that the prime minister would himself open the box.

With this idea the mechanism was so arranged that the act of tearing the paper lining would explode the bomb in which was a quantity of iron fragments.

But the box was not opened.

escape suspicion, and the minister, Pak Chel-sun handed it over to a servant, who consented to open it without causing any explosion. It is believed that the plot was planned by the anti-Japanese party, Pak Chel-sun having been minister of foreign affairs when the November convention was held. The conspirators, however, had its immediate object the conspirators gained what probably was to them almost as good, for Pak Chel-sun is reported to have been severely wounded, and the ground that his nerves had been shaken.

The Chinese authorities in Manchuria are said to be endeavoring to establish a title to the jurisdiction over the Korean subjects in Mukden on the ground that treaties do not secure to Korea any privilege of consular tribunals. The Japanese are retorting that the treaties do not give them any privilege, and they have gained a decided point by ar-

raigning a Korean subject before their own consul in the city on a charge of gambling and including him in a year's imprisonment. This is the first time that Koreans have been dealt with under the Japanese law, and the incident would appear to show that Korea has definitely recognized her powerful neighbor's right to exercise jurisdiction over Korean subjects abroad. Such a right almost follows from Korea's surrender to Japan of the charge of her foreign relations.

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INSURANCE LAW AMENDMENT.

New York Bill Provides for Official Ballot and Regulates Proxy Voting.

ALBANY, May 25.—The senate and assembly insurance committees have drafted

a substitute bill amending the insurance law of last year. The most important changes that have been made in the bill that is to be reported Monday night provide for the official ballot and regulate proxy voting. The insurance company is to send each policyholder a ballot, whether or not he has a vote, but if one man has more than one policy he can cast only one vote. Ballots may be mailed or cast in person. The person who gives the proxy must turn over his official ballot, so that the record can be kept straight. All ballots are to be sent to the secretary of the board of directors. The superintendent of insurance is to appoint the inspectors to take charge of the election.

Agents are prohibited from soliciting votes during business hours, and no vote is to be counted if the voter is not there being no opposition ticket the company

does not have to go to the expense of preparing an official ballot or of having the election section machinery as if two tickets were nominated.

In the event of the death of a director or of his being incapacitated, the board of directors is authorized to elect his successor to serve until the next election.

There will be an election held next year to elect half of the number of directors; but after that they will be held biennially. This will bring the next election in 1920, thus making it possible for the gubernatorial or presidential campaign to be a district attention.

It was Gov. Hughes' suggestion that a proxy should be accompanied by the original policyholder's official ballot.

Bowie Trial Set for July 10.

LA PLATA, Md., May 25.—The Bowie murder trial when called yesterday was postponed, and the court set July 10 for the trial, at which time court will convene here for the purpose of hearing the case. The failure to try the Bowies at this term of court is due to the inability of Miss Priscilla Bowie, daughter of the accused woman, to attend. She is the principal witness for the accused.